



Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Newsletter No.16

Friday 10th January 2020

Guided by the teachings of the Church we pray, work, celebrate, and care for each other and other people using the gifts we have been given by God the Father, Son and Spirit.

Dates for your diary		
Monday 13 th January 2020	2.45pm	Star/Virtues Pupil Awards (parents of selected pupils invited by text)
Thursday 16 th January 2020	2:40-2:55pm	Please see the class teacher to become a EYFS 'Secret Reader'
Wednesday 29 th January 2020	7pm	Year 6 Confirmation at The Mother of God and Guardian Angels Church



Invitation to Mass

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 9:15am for school Mass led by Year 3

All families are invited to **Family Mass** on the first Sunday of each month at The Mother of God and Guardian Angels Church

A note from Mrs Milligan

Welcome back to school and wishing you all a happy and healthy 2020. On behalf of all of the staff at Guardian Angels, thank you for the very kind cards, gifts and well wishes over the Christmas season- they really have touched the hearts of our staff.

The New Year has started well in school and we have welcomed two new class teachers to school. Mrs Burrell who is working with Year 5 and Miss Tonks who is working with Year 1.

This week in school we have been focusing upon part of our school mission to highlight further how we can show witness to our faith and live out our mission each day. The focus for the week has been 'Care'. Pupils have explored how to show care with their families and friends, within our school and local community and within the whole world. Please look at the last page of the newsletter to see more about Care Week.

Attendance

Our target for whole school attendance is 97%; please make every effort to ensure that your child comes to school every single day. Some facts about school attendance:

- 90% attendance is like having a day off every two weeks
- Most children should routinely have attendance rates of 97% or more. This is the equivalent of 6 days absence a year. HOWEVER, 100% is achieved by many pupils every year in both primary and secondary schools
- Remember - the only legally accepted reasons for not being in school are illness, holiday approved by school (exceptional circumstances) or a day of religious observance

EYFS Class September 2020

If you have a child due to start school in September 2020, we ask you to visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/admissions and submit an online application by **15th January 2020**. (The final closing date). If you are applying for a place at Guardian Angels you will also need to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) this is available from the School Office or on the website, please complete this form and return to the school office. Most importantly make sure you provide the information requested, it is vital that proof of Baptism is included with this form if your child has been baptised Catholic



Following an unusually high number of requests for term time leave, please take the following into consideration:
From 1st September 2013, amendments to the **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006** made clear that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**
 Term time holidays continue to cause significant concern and debate. While there are many different views, the direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. Therefore, we strongly discourage pupil leave of absence during term time. The expectation is that such leave would only be authorised in the most exceptional circumstances.

Friends of Guardian Angels

A huge thank you to all involved in supporting the school throughout the Autumn term – we are so lucky to have you on board and are extremely grateful for all your efforts in our variety of events.

Uniform

Please note that school policy also includes extreme hairstyles, coats, bags and PE kits. Please ensure your child has the correct items to avoid class teachers needing to speak to you.

**IF YOU'RE AN
EU CITIZEN
LIVING IN THE UK
APPLY TO THE
EU SETTLEMENT
SCHEME ONLINE**



Brexit Update

EU citizens and their families can **apply** for settled status or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

If the UK leaves, the EU without a deal, you'll need to be living in the UK before it leaves the EU to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. The deadline for applying will be 31 December 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

Confirmation: 29th January 2020

Due to health & safety considerations, we must stress that only one row of seating will be available for each family. We actively encourage extended family and friends to celebrate with you at family gatherings, independently of the service. Thank you.

Modeshift Stars

Parents: Our school travel plan may help us to reduce car congestion at the school gates leading to less pollution and safer environment for our staff, pupils and visitors. You can help with this by walking to school, even just once a week.

Children: Do not forget that our WOW (Walk Once a Week) scheme continues all year round and there is the chance to be awarded the January badge by walking to school just once per week.



Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)



Safeguarding tip of the week:

This week in school there have been a number of issues highlighted on social media apps such as TikTok and WhatsApp. A useful app to help parents to be able to monitor children's devices at home is 'Screen Time'.

More information about TikTok is at the end of the newsletter.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Article 29 (goals of education)

There pupils have been 'Aiming High' and displaying this half term's virtues.
We look forward to congratulating:

Group	Star Pupils	Virtues
EYFS	Amelia and Chloe	Ruby-Lou
Year 1	Stephanie and Finn	Ava-Tia
Year 2	Macie-Louise and Carl	D'or
Year 3	Layla and Thomas	Elias-Blue
Year 4C	Robert and Jack	Isabella
Year 4B	Maddison and Kaden	Daniel
Year 5	Elijah and Jenna	Heidi
Year 6	Lowen and Logan	Tristan

Parents of the selected pupils are invited to attend the assembly on Monday 13th January 2020 at 2:45pm

This week we wish a very 'Happy birthday' to:

Jacob (EYFS)

Riley (Y2)

Olivia (Y6)

Attendance for week commencing: w/c 16th December 2019

Article 28 (right to education)

Well done Year 4C

EYFS	94.6%
Year 1	93.6%
Year 2	87%
Year 3	88.3%
Year 4B	93.2%
Year 4C	96.2%
Year 5	89.3%
Year 6	94.7%
Overall Total for School	92.1%

Our whole school target is **97%** Please ensure that your child is in school every day possible.

Attentive

We are attentive when we listen to our calling from God to love and serve one another in all that we do. We are attentive to our experiences and can see where they will take us in our future vocations.



Discerning

We are discerning when we decide to do the right thing in the interest of the needs of others because we know the positive impact that will have on their lives.



Matthew 3:13-17

God of life, help us to act so that no one goes thirsty and all people around the world have enough water for all their needs. Amen.

God Bless

Mrs H Milligan (Head Teacher)

Mr A Spindlow (Deputy Head Teacher)





TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-synching and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as Parental guidance recommended. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-synching and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others' videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child as you could even crush your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Care Week 2020

Celebrating how Guardian Angels have shown 'Care' all year round. Guardian Angels pupils, staff, governors and parents have so many examples of 'Care' to share with you. Here are just a few...



Raising money for local charities



Celebrating differences to encourage love and peace.



Helping in our local community





Praying and worshipping together



Caring for our environment and God's world.



Helping each other

